



September Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school life and a warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined the Purford Green community in EYFS and other year groups. It has been such a pleasure and joy to have all year groups return to school full time after such a long-disrupted period from March 2020. Equally, it has been lovely to see so many of you after such a long time away and hearing about your own personal experiences on drop off and collection on what has been a very different time in our lifetimes.

All staff have worked so hard to ensure that the school site is safe, classrooms are prepared and children continue positively on their learning journey here with us. As always, staff have showed relentless commitment in setting up resources and classrooms and also have really focused on ensuring children's transition back into full time learning is as smooth as possible. It has been very rewarding to see that all of our hard work on our school risk assessment is working well and thank you to all parents and carers who have shared positive feedback about ways we have tried to keep parents and carers and staff and children safe on the school site. Without your co-operation and understanding, this would have been very challenging.

All staff have been amazed at how children have settled back into full days of teaching and learning after such a long period of a different routine during lockdown. Children are enjoying getting to know their new class teachers and adults are settling in very well into their new classrooms as well. This is a testament to our children who do really respond well here to a predictable routine with clear boundaries and expectations. We are really excited about the new school year ahead and look forward to working with you once again .



PE Kit

Please ensure that your child has a plain black or grey tracksuit as part of their PE kit. This will be kept in school with the rest of their PE kit until the class teacher sends home kits to be washed. Some children have found that they have grown a lot since March and need larger sizes of kit especially plimsolls and trainers. Please can you check that your child's footwear fits them comfortably as they will struggle to join in with poor fitting footwear. Class teachers and Mr Hammond are trying to catch individual parents to ask them to provide a new pair.



Meet the teacher

Unfortunately this year, we will be unable to hold our annual meet the new teacher meetings for parents in year 1 -6 due to COVID; ensuring there are limited adults within the school building together. Your child's teacher has been busy preparing a video which has been shared with you giving you important information about learning, homework, days for PE etc. Please can you watch this video as it will help you to know what is expected in your child's new year group. If there are any questions you have, following viewing the video, please use Tapestry or Class Dojo to ask or catch the class teacher at the end of the day.

Class dojo and Tapestry

Thank you to all parents and carers who have signed up to Class Dojo in Years 1 -6 and Tapestry in EYFS. It is **essential** that you are signed up to this as homework will be shared via this channel weekly and key information from class teachers is communicated to you this way. Also, in the event of any further lockdowns, home learning and contact will be sought by teachers through this communication method.



Year 6

It is that time of year where year 6 parents need to think about your child's transition to secondary school. Applications for school places are now live and the deadline for applying is 31st October 2020. Due to COVID restrictions, most secondary schools will be providing a virtual tour of the school. Please look at secondary school websites of schools you are interested in applying to for their information for prospective new pupils and parents. Passmores Academy, will be providing a virtual tour of the school soon. Please keep checking their website to access this.



Bikes and scooters

If your child brings a bike or scooter into school and leaves it in the shed, please make sure your child is not riding it when on the school premises for health and safety reasons and to allow other parents, carers and other children to enter and exit the school site safely. We thank you for your understanding with this.



Parent workshops to help with challenging behaviour

Purford Green are working with Trailblazer, part of Mind in West Essex, to access support for parents who need guidance and help with your child's behaviour at home. We all know that at some time as a parent, your child will present with some challenging behaviours. Trailblazer will be running a series of workshops that will take place via Zoom online for any parent who is interested in learning strategies and methods to deal with any challenging behaviour your child might be displaying at home.



The sessions will be as follows:

- Mon 28th Sep - Session 1
- Mon 5th Oct - Session 2
- Mon 19th Oct - Session 3
- Mon 2nd Nov - Session 4
- Mon 9th Nov - Session 5
- Mon 16th Nov - Session 6

Times of sessions will be confirmed directly from trailblazer.

Please see the attached form to fill in if you are interested and email it directly to trailblazer@mindinwestessex.org.uk. We strongly recommend accessing this free service and encourage you to book quickly as places will quickly be taken up.

Reporting absence or illness

Please continue to report absence or illness to the school office. Class dojo and Tapestry is not used to report your child's absence. If your child is absent and the office have not received a message about your child, the office will call - this is for safeguarding procedures that are followed to ensure your child is safe.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We are continuing to drive forward the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing for all members of our school community - pupils, staff and parents. This term we will be looking at and revising our 5 ways to Wellbeing which are - Be active, Give, Take Notice, Learn something new and Belong. We have Pupil Wellbeing Ambassadors in school (appointed before lockdown) who will be working with myself and Mrs Hammond to set up activities for children that link to these soon.

Please can I remind you that if you have a concern about your child's emotional and mental wellbeing, speak to the class teacher. Alternatively, Miss Smith and Mrs Hammond are the named adults in school who lead in this area.

Homework

Sadly, due to having to limit things that are brought into school from home, we will not



be able to continue with our project learning tasks for the near future. Your child's class teacher will set homework at the beginning of the week which will be shared via class dojo. Children will have at least a week to complete their homework and then they will take part in quizzes/ quick fire question activities/tests to apply their learning from the homework completed. We ask that you send a photo using class dojo of your child working on their homework so we can celebrate and recognise children's hard work and efforts in completing work at home.

Parents of children in Year 2

When collecting your child, it would be really helpful if you could line up on the yellow lines outside of the year 5 and 6 classroom if the main pathway starts to get blocked. This will allow the main pathway to be kept clear for other parents leaving from year 3 and 4 and support us with keeping adults safe and socially distanced.



House captains

I am pleased to announce that we have recently appointed our house captains and vice house captains from Year 6 after children in different houses voted. We were very impressed with the presentations given from children who were shortlisted for this role and the rest of the school, were able to watch these with interest from their classrooms on microsoft teams. House and Vice House Captain roles are prestigious roles of responsibility within our school and I look forward to working with them this year to ensure they represent the school in the best way that they can. Congratulations to



Unicorn house

- House captain—Harry
- Vice captain—George



Dragon house

- House captain—Milan
- Vice captain—Elza



Lion

- House captain—Oliver
- Vice captain—Grace



Griffin

- House captain—Gwen
- Vice captain—Jack